

probably always been confounded with *H. oculata*, Fln., and I therefore give it the name *H. commixta*. The synonymy of the three species would therefore now read as follows:—

ATRICORNIS, *Mg., Mcq., Lw., Girsch.,*  
*Strobl, Coll.*  
*filiformis, Dsv.*  
*vespertilionea, Dsv.*  
*rotundicornis, Ztt.*  
*Delarouzei, Big.*  
*occulata, Schin.*  
*diversa, Rnd.*

COMMIXTA, *nov. nom.*

? *cinerella, Mcq.*  
*occulata, Hal., Mde.*  
*rotundicornis, Mde., Coll. (ol.).*  
*atricornis, Ferr.*

OCULATA, *Fln., Mg., Mcq., Ztt., Coll.*

? *scutellata, Mcq., Mg.*  
*magnicornis, Lw.*

Sussex Lodge, Newmarket :

October 26th, 1901.

#### RE-DISCOVERY OF *AGRYPNETES CRASSICORNIS*, McLACH.

BY ROBERT McLACHLAN, F.R.S., &c.

With reference to my notes at *ante* p. 270, I have this day received from Prof. Sahlberg a *female* of *A. crassicornis*, with the information that one was taken near Helsingfors last summer by Herr Weurlandes, a student in the Museum there, and that on searching over the insects placed in the Museum as *Agrypnia Pagetana* two further females were found (one of which is presented to me), which, in their unexpanded condition, had been overlooked by myself, and by those who examined the collection in Finland. The resemblance is very considerable, and the antennæ are much finer than in the ♂. It has the same short thick palpi as in the ♂, and the middle legs are more dilated than in that sex. The apex of the abdomen is different. A full account with figures will be published in Finland.

Lewisham, London :

November 12th, 1901.

#### NOTE ON THE GENUS *LECANIODIASPIS*, TARG.

BY E. ERNEST GREEN, F.E.S., GOVERNMENT ENTOMOLOGIST, CEYLON.

*Lecanodiaspis*, Signoret, "Essai sur les Cochenilles," p. 173, pl. vii, fig. 6.

*Prosopophora*, Douglas, Ent. Mo. Mag., 2nd ser., vol. iii, August, 1892, p. 207, pl. iii, fig. 1.

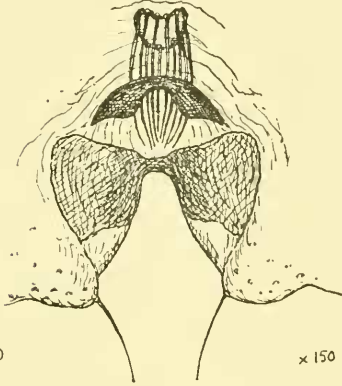
I have been unable to consult the original description of the genus, as defined by Targioni-Tozzetti. It will be noted that Signoret

omits the first "i" in his notes of the genus. Subsequent writers have agreed to correct this spelling, in accordance with its derivation from the name *Lecanium*.

Prof. Cockerell appears to have been the first to recognise the old genus *Lecaniodiaspis* in Mr. Douglas's later genus *Prosopophora*.

LECANIODIASPIS (PROSOPOPHORA) DENDROBII, Douglas.

Having occasion to examine specimens of this insect (apparently part of the original material from Demerara, from Mr. Newstead's



collection), I find that the five pairs of perforated discs are situated on the dorsum, not on the under-surface, as described by Mr. Douglas. In none of my examples have I been able to find the anterior triangular series of similar discs mentioned in the original description. The marginal blunt spines are three (sometimes four) on each side; the first and second corresponding in position to the stigmatic

spines of *Lecanium*; the third almost midway between them. When a fourth is present, it is a reduplication of the first. The chitinous arch above the anal ring is not quite accurately figured or described. It is not an even band, but is deeply emarginate on its posterior edge, and there is a dense chitinous plate on the inner margin of each anal lobe (see figure), the two plates meeting and becoming confluent above the anal cleft.

BIRCHIPPIA, Green, Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist., ser. 7, vol. vi, November, 1900, p. 450.

Prof. Cockerell has kindly drawn my attention to the fact that this genus is distinctly Lecaniodiaspid. Comparison with *Lecaniodiaspis dendrobii* and other allied species makes it quite certain that this is so; in fact, I can now see no good generic difference between *Birchippia* and *Lecaniodiaspis* itself. The structure of the anal ring, the blunt lateral spines, the peculiar form of the spinnerets and ducts, are all typical. The perforated discs on the dorsum, though small and inconspicuous in *Birchippia*, can be located. Under these circumstances I am of opinion that the genus *Birchippia* should be considered a synonym of *Lecaniodiaspis*. The species will apparently remain good. The smooth test, without polygonal depressions or

markings, distinguishes it from other described species. The name *anomala* (given under a misapprehension of the systematic position of the insect) is certainly inappropriate. There is nothing really anomalous about the species; but having been once applied, the laws of zoological nomenclature necessitate its retention.

Peradeniya, Ceylon :

October 4th, 1901.

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## THE TWO METHODS OF DETERMINING DIPTERA.

BY C. R. OSTEN SACKEN.

For the purpose of recognising a Dipteron (and perhaps most other Insects) in one, or more descriptions, two different methods may be used, one of which may be called the *method of comparison*, and the other the *method of visualization*.

The *method of comparison* is the ordinary one, when the specimen to be determined is held up, and compared in every detail with the description. In using this method, one is often bewildered by discrepancies, especially when the description is long. The *method of visualization* consists in examining the specimen first, and impressing its principal features upon one's memory, so as to be capable of *visualizing* it in its absence. The next step is to read the description (or descriptions when there are several), and, while doing it, to build up the described insect in one's imagination. Thus a mental image is produced in which the species to be determined can easily be recognised, even in the absence of the specimen. After having thus selected a description apparently answering the specimen to be determined, the description is read for a second time with the specimen in hand; and this second reading enables one to decide whether the discrepancies are important, or not, and, in the latter case, to accept the identification.

The method of visualization is quicker and surer than the other, and, with it, I have sometimes succeeded in deciphering Walker's sometimes long, but unmeaning descriptions. In the following instance the advantage of the method of visualization was unmistakably proved.

Loew had prepared a preliminary list of American *Dasyopogonina*, in which the species known to him were distributed among his new genera. Some of Walker's and other unrecognisable specific descriptions were enumerated in this list under the heading *Dasyopogon* (in the widest sense). Loew challenged what he called my perspi-